



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

SUBJECT:	SOCIOLOGY PAPER I	Test Code:	9	3	9			
Name of Candidate	Maithreyi Naidu							
Medium Hindi/Eng.	Eng	Registration Number	1	6	3	9	7	4
Center	Online	Date	2	8	0	9	1	7

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
				1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
				2. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
				3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
				4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
				5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
				6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
Total Marks Obtained:				

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

SECTION-A

1(a) Significance of case studies as a method of data collection

Case studies as a method of data collection has been extensively used with sociology as well as social anthropology to not only collect data about social reality but also to demonstrate sociological theories. Its significance lies in its multidimensional nature. Its advantages include -

(i) Case studies can be used to collect detailed information about a particular event or phenomenon. As it limits the field of study, it expands the researcher's ability to study a case comprehensively.

(ii) It can accommodate a diverse range of methods such as interviews, historical records, observation etc which increases the reliability of the data

(iii) It enables temporal studies where the same case can be examined over a period of time

(iv) It is a crucial part of policy implementation where the effect of decisions can be examined on an intense scale.

(v) It can help gain specific data to clarify and expand on existing theory and research.

The Chicago School demonstrated extensively the use of the case study method through works such as the 'Gold Coast and The Slum', 'The Polish Peasant', etc.

(b) Intellectual influences affecting the emergence of sociology

The emergence of the discipline of sociology was during a period characterised by great social as well as intellectual upheaval.

The two main intellectual trends which impacted sociology were Enlightenment and counter-Enlightenment.

The principles of Enlightenment by thinkers such as Rousseau, Ricardo, Locke, Montesquieu etc which guided the path of sociology were -
(i) belief in the possibility of objective study of reality through science

(ii) use of science for the betterment of
humankind through technology.

(iii) the progress of society over time
sociologists such as Saint Simon
and Comte therefore advocated the
use of scientific method in sociology
to transform it into an objective and
productive discipline.

On the other hand, the counter
Enlightenment thinkers such as Burke
were concerned with the rapid degeneration
of society and disorder created through
industrial and political revolution.

The restoration of social order and
social solidarity was also the
central concern of sociologists like
Durkheim ~~which~~ who emphasized
the supremacy of society over the
individual.

Other prominent intellectual
currents include philosophy of history
which created an interest in the methods
used in the study of society, and
evolutionism which gave birth to
social Darwinism and modernization
theories.

(c) Sociology and Demography

Demography is the study of changes and attributes of human population. It is often considered a statistical discipline outside the purview of sociological theorizing.

The classical sociologists often based their theories of change on vague notions of increase in population size as well as increase in interactions. For example, Durkheim argued that the transformation from phys mechanical to organic solidarity is characterized by increase in physical as well as moral density.

However, the first comprehensive theory of demography was given by Malthus who proposed that population increases geometrically while production increases arithmetically. Therefore, at one point population will breach carrying capacity and will have to be controlled through disasters such as plagues and famines.

Another theory of demography

and development holds that there are four stages of transition from underdeveloped to developed society - initial stage of low population due to high birth and ^{death} rate, rapid increase in population as death rate decreases, high population, and finally stabilization of population as birth rate decreases.

In recent times, as the emphasis on quantitative methods in sociology has grown, demography has become one of the central topics of study.

(d) Types of probability samples

Probability sampling is a method which uses statistical techniques to draw a representative sample. The various types of probability sampling techniques are -

(i) random sampling - here every item has a definite, non-zero and equal chance of being included in the sample. This includes different tools such as lottery method where the items are written on chits and selected randomly, selection of n^{th} items from a list or use of random sample tables from statistical books.

(ii) Stratified sampling - here the heterogeneous population is divided into homogeneous subgroups from which samples are drawn in proportion of the subgroups to the total population. For example, to draw a sample from people of different religions, each religious group is randomly sampled so that number of items from x group is in proportion to population of x groups in total population.

(iii) Quota sampling - here quotas are assigned to each category of the population and items are chosen to fill these quotas either randomly or according to convenience.

(iv) Cluster sampling or multiple sampling - here sampling methods are applied repeatedly on the same population. For example, to select a class, first the district can be randomly selected from all the districts in a state, then the school is randomly selected from the districts and finally a class is randomly selected.

A combination of these methods can be used according to research needs.

(c) Phenomenology -

The phenomenological approach in sociology emerged as a critique of the dominant positivist perspective which sought to apply the methods and principles of natural science to the study of human society.

Phenomenologists argue that human action is fundamentally different from natural science objects as it involves the subjective meaning that actors attach to their own action, as well as to other social objects. Therefore, sociology must not just observe social reality from the outside but should also seek to understand the meanings given by the participants of the reality.

Weber's theory of interpretative sociology is considered the intellectual source of this approach as it emphasized empathetical understanding of the subjective meanings, motivations and rationality behind actions.

Fundamental to the approach is the use of qualitative research, respecting the opinion of the objects.

of study, and conducting research in a manner which respects human dignity.

Within this approach, some theorists argue that social reality consists entirely of the meanings that individuals create whereas others like Schutz hold that the meanings themselves are mediated through symbolic language and common sense knowledge.

2(a) "Sociology can be termed a science because it fulfills the basic requirements of objective and rational knowledge of social reality." Critically examine.

When the discipline of sociology was established in the 18th century, its proponents were concerned with legitimizing its utility by equating it with natural science. This led to popularization of the positivist approach which sought to apply the methods of natural science to create an objective and rational social science.

Durkheim, for example, argued that

Sociology is the study of social facts which are social phenomena external to the individual and not subject to manipulation by individual will. He called these facts as 'things' and said that they can be studied objectively by removing all prejudices and defining them in terms of their visible attributes. For example, he defined crime as an act which entails the visible reaction of punishment.

He advocated the scientific classification of social facts based on morphology and advocated the use of comparative method to establish causation and correlation.

Hence, the sociologist was to distance herself from the objects of study and therefore maintain objectivity and value neutrality. Similarly, she was to use rational tools of statistical science to produce generalized conclusions.

Weber argued that it is not entirely possible to understand human action objectively as it involves subjective meanings and therefore requires empathetic understanding of the investigator. But he too advocated the value neutrality.

of the sociologists so he avoids parsing value judgements.

This approach has been critiqued by Myrdal who argues that it is not possible to be entirely free from bias as the object of study in sociology is drawn from one's own social milieu rather than from the external physical world. Our values and belief often cloud the way we express 'social facts' rendering objectivity impossible.

Gouldner argues that it is not only impossible but also unethical for the sociologist to remain value neutral.

Absolute relativism leads to condoning of attacks on ~~the~~ universal values such as human rights and gender equality etc and therefore must be discarded.

In recent decades, scholars such as Karl Popper, Thomas ~~and~~ Kuhn and the post-modernists have argued that science itself is not objective or universal. It is relative and destructive and is used as an instrument of power.

Therefore, sociology not only does not fulfil requirement of objective science but should avoid trying to do so.

(b) - Sociology as a discipline is more than common sense! Explain the validity of this statement.

As the subject matter of sociology is close related ~~the~~ to the everyday life of people, it is often equated with common sense knowledge. However, sociology is more than common sense both because of the methods it applies to study society as well the utility of its conclusion.

Sociology draws from a well established repertoire of concepts, tools and techniques whereas common sense is based on folk wisdom. Sociological theories are rigorously tested through research, whereas common sense is untested.

Sociology seeks to draw conclusions which can be universal and comparable whereas common sense knowledge is localized and limited.

Sociology systematically eliminates

preexisting bias whereas common sense is replete with prejudices and preconceptions.

The product of sociological studies is used for prediction and policy formulation whereas common sense knowledge is generally not practicable.

Most critically, sociological knowledge is based on critique of preexisting knowledge whereas common sense is not reflexive and not amenable to modification.

An example given by Andre Betielle is the common maxim that in modern India, joint families are giving way to nuclear families whereas A M Shah's research reveals that the proportion of joint and nuclear families has remained constant. For this reason Durkheim advocates discarding common sense notions in sociology.

However, Alfred Schutz critiques this as he considers common sense as a repository of the meanings that social actors give to their reality and therefore, a worthy subject of sociological investigation.

(c) "The subject matter and scope of sociology have been intensely debated but still it is not practical to rein its purview within specific boundaries." Examine

Durkheim was the first sociologist to define the scope of sociology as the study of 'social facts'. But since then, the issue has been a matter of intense debate and even today sociologists chose the subject matter based on their own theoretical leanings and idiosyncracies.

The formalistic school holds that sociology should be the study of social relationships and nothing else. They consider it a unique discipline which should not draw from the knowledge base of any existing discipline and should formulate its own concepts, tools and methods. They also draw a line between culture and society as well as individual and society as objects of study.

In contrast, the syncretic school to which belonged most of the early sociologists, considers sociology as a science along with many other scientific disciplines. To them it is the 'queen of all sciences' as it is the most inclusive and integrative and inclusive discipline. Comte and Spencer, for example drew analogy between biology and society as did Parsons.

In recent times, it has^o become increasingly difficult to separate sociology from other subjects due to the need for interdisciplinary approach in research. The social consequences of economy, polity and psychology are central concerns. Further, as the 'exotic and primitive societies' are being modernized it is increasingly futile to separate sociology and anthropology. Hence, while theoretical debates may continue, inclusive research will prove more practical in the long run.

4(a) Comment on the critics charge that Immanuel Wallerstein's dependency theory is simplistic and wrong.

Wallerstein's world systems theory is a contribution to the dependency approach to development which holds that the underdevelopment of 3rd world countries is not a product of internal factors but of the international economic relations.

It holds that the developed countries are exploiting the resources of the peripheral or satellite countries for their own benefit and preventing the progress of the latter.

This theory has been critiqued for multiple reasons -

(i) it is considered a simplistic theory which ignores the endemic problems in poor countries such as lack of human resource development, lack of innovation, entrenched poverty as well late entry to the industrialization process.

(ii) Later dependency theorists have also argued that wallerstein ignores the role played by developing countries ^(semi peripheries) as well as internal elites in peddling the trickle down approach of the developed countries and cornering any benefits.

(iii) Economists consider the dependency approach wrong as they hold that developed countries are transferring wealth as well as technology to poor countries resulting in historically low poverty rates for the first time in the world.

The critique of the economists is valid only insofar as it accounts for absolute poverty. In relational terms, there has been increasing concentration of wealth and separation of the lifestyles of the rich and the poor.

The critique of the later dependency theorists is important as it adds to the repertoire of the approach. But at the fundamental level, it

does not negate the principles of
Wallerstein's world system theory.
In fact, his theory provides a
more succinct and impactful analysis
of the macro level and the modifications
may create more ambiguity.

Despite the criticisms, the theory
will remain valid so long as the
convergence of the developed and
the underdeveloped does not occur.

(b) Comment on why neo-idealists
and symbolic interactionists are
critical of 'positivism' in sociology

The positivist approach in
sociology attempts to apply the
methods of natural science to create
an objective and productive science
of society

This approach has been
critiqued by the neo-idealists
and the symbolic interactionists as
it ignores the creative human
element in social reality. They
argue the positivism only observes

social reality from the outside and does not seek to understand the meaning behind the actions of the individuals.

The idealists hold that it the ideas and motives which are products of the human mind that guide social reality and social change. Therefore, individuals cannot be ~~considered~~ ^{considered} merely products of the social structure. In contrast positivism ignores such as intangibles such as ideas and motives as they cannot be observed or measured.

Similarly, interactionists critique the positivists for considering social reality as an emergent and external level of reality which cannot be changed by individual will. They argue that social reality is in fact constructed through individual interactions but means of symbolic language which attaches meanings to objects.

Further, the positivists are also

critiqued for their reliance on quantitative techniques which only study measurable attributes.

They also question the emphasis on generalizations and laws. They argue that each case is unique as it is a product of creative process and therefore must be studied intensely.

The positivists are also critiqued for 'othering' and disempowering the objects of their study by taking away their voice.

The criticisms given by the idealists are valid as they reveal the difficulties in applying the techniques of natural science to the social sciences.

However, they do not provide a practical alternative as the approach suggested by them will yield too many distinct cases negating the entire purpose of sociology.

(c) Explain the significance of 'hypotheses' in formulation of sociological theories.

Hypothesis is a falsifiable statement asserting a relationship between two or more variables.

A crisp and grounded hypothesis can contribute to the formulation of a hypothesis theory in many ways -

(i) it indicates areas for research - as research cannot study the entirety of social reality, a hypothesis narrows down the parameters and guides the research in such a way that data pertinent to a specific theory can be collected

(ii) Through induction, it can reassert or reformulate theory - if the hypothesis is proven correct, it can add to the existing theory from which it is drawn.

If it is falsified, it will indicate possible gaps in the theory and aid in suitably reformulating

theory.

For example, from Durkheim's theory of inverse relationships between suicide rates and social solidarity, one can hypothesize that suicide rates will be more among the aged than over those with families living with them. If proven through research it will reinforce his theory. If falsified, the theory will have to be reformulated to account for extraneous factors.

SECTION 13

(a) Ogburn's theory of 'dysfunctionalization' of family

The functionalist theory of kinship holds that family is beneficial for the individual as well as the society. Parsons for example has argued that family is the site for primary socialization which integrates the individual into the modern industrial society and also contributes to adult personality stabilization.

However, Ogburn's theory of defunctionalization of family holds that in modern society several of the functions of family have been taken over by other social institutions such as educational institutions and professional associations.

For example, the role played by secondary kin or extended family in determining social obligations is being taken over by neighbourhood societies. Similarly, mental health counsellors are performing functions which spouses or siblings traditionally performed.

Further, family itself is becoming dysfunctional as it is the site for conflict and strain. Children are made scapegoats by parents and individual creativity is stifled.

(b) Education as a medium of cultural reproduction

Education has been defined sociologically as the process of transmission of values and norms of a society over generations.

This process of transmission ensures that the values and norms of a culture are reproduced in a sufficiently stable manner to ensure the continuity and stability of a civilization.

Durkheim was one of the first sociologists to address role of education in society. He sought to leverage the education system of France to inculcate in the children values which would replicate social systems and enhance social solidarity.

In contrast, Mao and Lenin advocated the use of the education system to dismantle the bourgeois ideology and promote socialism.

In modern sociological theory, education is seen as a means to promote the innovative spirit which ~~p~~ will place premium on achievement and success so that traditional societies can be transformed into modern ones. Here, education is seen to reproduce a culture of development.

Feminists criticize this opinion as they argue that education serves to reproduce sexual division of labour and socializes women to perform 'feminine' work.

Similar, Bourdieu argues that education reproduces social inequality rather acting as a leveler. The rich are able to endow their children with 'cultural capital' which enables them to succeed in educational institutions and corner rewards.

(c) Advantages of multistrategy research

Multistrategy research involves the use of research methods and techniques from a diverse range of approaches to gain a better understanding of social reality. The advantages of this approach are -

(i) combination of qualitative and quantitative methods - this will enable collection of data which is standardized, but also involves the participation of the respondent. It will promote causal analysis along with correlational statistics.

(ii) crosschecking of data for better validity - by comparing field data from primary sources with sufficient secondary data such as official records will reveal the extent to which the data is true. It will also corroborate data, enable triangulation and enhance reliability.

(iii) It will ensure that unique case can be examined thoroughly even as generalizations are drawn from the general cases.

(iv) It will combine extensive research over a wide variety of cases with intense and detailed data collection.

However, the advantages of multi strategy research are accompanied by several constraints such as time and cost. Therefore, it is difficult to plan and apply it effectively.

(d) Feminization of labour in informal sector

The informal sector which constitutes 92% in Indian workforce is increasingly being feminized.

There are many factors responsible for this. Firstly, it is easier for women to access the informal sector rather than the formal sector as they lack marketable skills or education. It is flexible and can be exited whenever the family so demands. ~~for~~

Further, the unions in the formal sector prevent women from gaining position of power.

In recent times, the process of globalization of production chains and proliferation of multi-national companies has enabled women to seek low paying jobs as ~~the~~ companies try to minimize labour costs.

This has had many consequences. On the one hand, it has increased access to the labour market for women, providing them a modus of independent wealth income.

At the same time, it has led to women being deprived of secure jobs with benefit. These women are exploited. Their wages are determined at piece rate and the companies take no responsibility for their welfare. It has also been accompanied by a proliferation of women-headed households as men migrate in search for jobs while women work on the farms or in cottage industries.

It has increased the size of the industrial army reducing the overall wages.

Q(a) Examine the impact of information technology on social organization of work in contemporary society.

The emergence of the information technology revolution (IT) has transformed social organization of work. It has led to what Daniel Bell refers to as the post-industrial or knowledge society.

The fundamental difference between industrial and knowledge society is the raw material for production. Instead of land or material object, it is information which is the source of means of production and consumption.

As a result, the new capitalist class consists not of landholders but of IT professionals who can collect, collate and utilize data. They, by virtue of controlling information, have acquired power as the

de facto ruling class in knowledge society.

Information technology has impacted the process of production itself. As Anthony Giddens argues, it has dissociated time from space so that information ~~has~~ can be communicated from one part of the world to another instantaneously. This has sped up production and enabled internationalization of production chains.

At the same time, it has taken forward the process of subjugation of human creativity to market dominated processes. The product of labour is not longer materially visible but resides in the minds of the labourer which itself is being colonized through intellectual property rights.

The logics of Taylorism and Fordism are difficult to apply as labour cannot be broken down easily.

Ultimately, IT will lead to the mechanization of all activities which do not need creativity through more advanced robotics. This may create large scale unemployment and impoverishment as predicted in Marxist theory.

(b) Enumerate the characteristics of 'informally organized work' in certain types of societies.

Classical economics holds that informal economy in pre industrial society has no logic or rationality to the production process. This has been rejected that by sociologists such as Karl Polanyi who argue that the production process, whether formal or informal, is embedded in the social process and is therefore, guided by the logic of social relations.

Malinowski, for instance, while describing the Kula exchange system shows how even in hunting and gathering societies, exchange is highly situated and ^{rudimentary} division of labour is practiced to ensure necessities of all groups are met.

Marshall Sahlins, studying various tribes such as the Azande, the Kalahari Bushmen, etc, demonstrates the informal organization of work under the domestic mode of production. Here, the household is the unit of both production and consumption. There is no specialization of work so that all members can perform all activities. Primitive agriculture is combined with cottage industry. The produce is geared towards subsistence and tools are owned by all members. As a result, there is no inequality due to monopolization of surplus.

The studies of peasant societies, conducted by Robert Redfield and

his students, have also revealed the informal organization work. Here, the dominant production activity is agriculture combined with small scale cattle rearing.

Work is divided by age and sex as women perform within the household while men work in the fields, but this is not strictly followed.

There is no specialization of work as seen in industrial societies.

Any surplus produced is exchanged with kith and kin rather than put into the market. As the surplus is not accumulated, the power is not concentrated and there is not inequality.

These descriptions have been criticized as being idyllic. They ignore intra household inequality as also the power exercised by big big landlords in peasant societies.

Nevertheless, they demonstrate the logic behind social organization of work in informal economies.

(c) Discuss the importance of lineage and descent in kinship and family.

Descent refers to kinship ties traced through blood relation, i.e. ties traced through parents and their ancestors. Lineage is a corporate group constituted by all those who share descent from a common ancestor, where such descent can be established genealogically. The importance of descent and lineage includes -

- (i) it creates corporate groups which hold common rights and obligations with respect to other lineages. It means that all individuals belonging to a lineage are treated as one group by outsiders
- (ii) property and name are passed through the lineage
- (iii) residence prior to and after marriage is often determined by the rules of descent

(iv) Fortes argues that lineages are corporate groups are important in kinship based societies as power is held by the dominant lineage and passed down through it.

Similarly, priestly positions are also determined through descent. For example, in patrilineal societies, property and power are held in the male line and relations with the matrilineage are more informal.

(v) Descent also determines rules for marriage as marriages with certain related lineages may be prescribed or proscribed.

Therefore, in family, descent determines behaviour whereas in kinship, descent constitutes the organizational principle.